NUMB. CCCXLVI.

The SPECTATOR.

Conſuetudinem benignitatis largitioni Munerum longe antepono. Hæc eſt Gravium hominum atque Magnorum: Illa quaſi aſſentatorum populi, multitudinis levitatem voluptate quaſi titillantium. Tull.

Monday, April 7. 1712.

WHEN we conſider the Offices of humane Life, there is, methinks, ſomething in what we ordinarily call Generoſity, which, when carefully examined, ſeems to flow rather from a looſe and unguarded Temper, than an honeſt and liberal Mind. For this Reaſon it is abſolutely neceſſary, that all Liberality ſhould have for its Baſis and Support Frugality. By this Means the beneficent Spirit works in a Man from the Convictions of Reaſon, not from the Impulſes of Paſſion. The generous Man, in the ordinary Acceptation, without reſpect to the Demands of his own Family, will ſoon find, upon the Foot of his Account, that he has ſacrificed to Fools, Knaves, Flatterers, or the deſervedly unhappy, all the Opportunities of affording any future Aſſiſtance where it ought to be. Let him therefore reflect, that if to beſtow be in it ſelf laudable, ſhould not a Man take Care to ſecure an Ability to do things Praiſe-worthy as long as he lives? Or could there be a more cruel Piece of Rallery upon a Man who ſhould have reduced his Fortune below the Capacity of acting according to his natural Temper, than to ſay of him, *That Gentleman was generous.* My beloved Author therefore has, in the Sentence on the Top of my Paper, turned his Eye with a certain Satiety from beholding the Addreſſes to the People by Largeſſes and publick Entertainments, which he aſſerts to be in general vicious, and are always to be regulated according to the Circumſtances of Time and a Man's own Fortune. A conſtant Benignity in Commerce with the reſt of the World, which ought to run through all a Man's Actions, has Effects more uſeful to thoſe whom you oblige, and leſs oſtentatious in your ſelf. He turns his Recommendation of this Virtue in commercial Life; and according to him, a Citizen who is frank in his Kindneſſes, and abhors Severity in his Demands; he who in buying, ſelling, lending, doing acts of good Neighbourhood, is juſt and eaſy; he who appears naturally averſe to Diſputes, and above the Senſe of little Sufferings, bears a nobler Character, and does much more Good to Mankind than any other Man's Fortune without Commerce can poſſibly ſupport. For the Citizen above all other Men has Opportunities of arriving at *that higheſt Fruit of Wealth, to be liberal without the leaſt Exſtence of a Man's own Fortune.* It is not to be denied but ſuch a Practice is liable to Hazard; but this therefore adds to the Obligation, that, among Traders, he who obliges is as much concerned to keep the Favour a Secret, as he who receives it. The unhappy Diſtinctions among us in *England* are ſo great, as to celebrate the Intercourſe of commercial Friendſhip (with which I am daily made acquainted) would be to raiſe the virtuous Man ſo many Enemies of the contrary Party. I am obliged to conceal all I know of *Tom the Bounteous*, who lends at the ordinary Intereſt, to give Men of leſs Fortune Opportunities of making greater Advantages. He conceals under a rough Air and diſtant Behaviour a bleeding Compaſſion and womaniſh Tenderneſs. This is governed by the moſt exact Circumſpection, that there is no Induſtry wanting in the Perſon whom he is to ſerve, and that he is guilty of no improper Expences. This I know of *Tom*, but who dares ſay it of ſo known a Tory? The ſame Care I was forced to uſe ſome Time ago in the Report of another's Virtue, and ſaid Fifty inſtead of an Hundred, becauſe the Man I pointed at was a Whigg. Actions of this Kind are popular without being invidious, for every Man of ordinary Circumſtances looks upon a Man who has this known Benignity in his Nature, as a Perſon ready to be his Friend upon ſuch Terms as he ought to expect it; and the Wealthy, who may envy ſuch a Character, can do no Injury to its Intereſts but by the Imitation of it, in which the good Citizens will rejoyce to be rivalled. I know not how to form to my ſelf a greater Idea of Humane Life, than in what is the Practice of ſome wealthy Men whom I could name, that make no Step to the improvement of their own Fortunes, wherein they do not alſo advance thoſe of other Men, who would languiſh in Poverty without that Munificence. In a Nation where there are ſo many publick Funds to be ſupported, I know not whether he can be called a good Subject, who does not imbark ſome Part of his Fortune with the State to whoſe Vigilance he owes the ſecurity of the whole. This certainly is an immediate Way of laying an Obligation upon many, and extending your Benignity the fartheſt a Man can poſſibly, who is not engaged in Commerce. But he who Trades, beſides giving the State ſome part of this ſort of Credit he gives his Banker, may in all the Occurrences of his Life, have his Eye upon removing Want from the Door of the Induſtrious, and defending the unhappy upright Man from Bankrupcy. Without this Benignity, Pride or Vengeance will precipitate a Man to chuſe the Receipt of half his Demands from one whom he has undone, rather than the whole from one to whom he has ſhewn Mercy. This Benignity is eſſentia to the Character of a fair Trader, and any Man who deſigns to enjoy his Wealth with Honour and Self-Satisfaction: Nay it would not be hard to maintain, that the Practice of ſupporting good and induſtrious Men, would carry a

Man

Man further, even to his Profit, than indulging the Propensity of serving and obliging the Fortunate. My Author argues on this Subject, in order to incline Men's minds to those who want them most, after this Manner. *We must always consider the Nature of things, and govern our selves accordingly. The wealthy Man when he has repaid you, is upon a Balance with you; but the Person whom you favoured with a Loan, if he be a good Man, will think himself in your Debt after he has paid you. The Wealthy and the Conspicuous are not obliged by the benefits you do them, they think they conferred a Benefit when they receive one. Your good Offices are always suspected, and it is with them the same thing to expect their favour as to receive it. But the Man below you, who knows in the good you have done him, you respected himself more than his Circumstances, does not act like an obliged Man only to him from whom he has received a Benefit, but also to all who are capable of doing him one. And whatever little Offices he can do for you, he is so far from magnifying it, that he will labour to extennate it in all his Actions and Expressions. Moreover the regard to what you do to a great Man, at best is taken Notice of no further than by himself or his Family; but what you do to a Man of an humble Fortune, (provided always that he is a good and a modest Man) raises the Affections towards you, of all Men of that Character (of which there are many) in the whole City.*

There is nothing gains a Reputation to a Preacher so much as his own Practice; I am therefore casting about what Act of Benignity is in the Power of a SPECTATOR. Alass that lies but in a very narrow Compass, and I think the most immediately under my Patronage, are either Players, or such whose Circumstances bear an affinity with theirs: All therefore I am able to do at this Time of this Kind, is to tell the Town, that on *Friday* the Eleventh of this Instant *April*, there will be performed in *York-Buildings*, a Consort of Vocal and instrumental Musick, for the Benefit of Mr. *Edward Keen*, the Father of Twenty Children; and that this Day the haughty *George Powell* hopes all the Good-natured Part of the Town, will favour him whom they Applauded in *Alexander*, *Timon*, *Lear* and *Orestes*, with their Company this Night, when he hazards all his Heroick Glory for their Approbation in the humbler Condition of honest *Jack Falstaffe*.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

☞ *This Day is Publish'd, and ready to be deliver'd to the Subscribers, by Jacob Tonson at Shakespear's Head over-against Catherine-street in the Strand.*

C. Julii Cæsaris quæ extant. Accuratissime cum Libris Editis & MSS optimis Collata, Recognita & Correcta. Accesserunt Annotationes Samuelis Clarke, S. T. P. Item Indices Locorum, Rerumque & Verborum Utilissimæ. Tabulis Æneis Ornata.

At the same time and place will likewise be Publish'd,

☞ *Titi Lucretii Cari de Rerum Natura Libri Sex. Ad optimorum Exemplarium fidem recensiti. Accesserunt Variæ Lectiones, quæ in Libris MSS & Eruditorum Commentarii notatu digniores occurrunt.*

This Edition of Lucretius *is Printed in Quarto, with the same Letter and Paper, as* Horace, Virgil, Terence, Catullus, &c. *have been already Printed at Cambridge, and is to be had in Quires upon Payment of one Guinea down, for which a Receipt will be given, entituling the Bearer to* Ovid's *Works in three Volumes, Quarto in Quires (Printed after the same Manner) paying one Guinea more upon the Delivery thereof.* Ovid *is now actually in the Press, some Sheets of which are to be seen at the Place above, and will be finished before the End of this Year.*

At Mr. Penkethman's Toy-Shop over-against Garway's Coffe-house in Exchange-Ally, are to be Sold, at 3 Guineas a Set (15 Prints in a Set) the curious Prints of Signior N. Dorigny, lately come from Italy. Done from the Paintings of the famous Raphael Urbin, and others the most celebrated Masters at Rome; also at the same Place, are Subscriptions taken for the Cartons at Hampton-Court, to be done by the same Hand, also the Gallery of Luxingburg is Sold at the same Place.

At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this present Monday being the 7th of April, will be presented, a Play call'd, King Henry the IV. With the Humours of Sir John Falstaff. The Part of Falstaff to be perform'd by Mr. Powell, for his own Benefit. By her Majesty's command, no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

Mr. Van Nost's Collection of Plaister Figures and Models, of Flemingo, Algard, John de Bellono, the old and young Quellin, Abundance of Models of Monuments and Figures of Mr. Van Nost, and other eminent Masters (it being a large and most extraordinary Collection) will be Sold by Auction at his late Dwelling-house in Hide Park-Road near the Queen's Mad-house, this day the 7th of April following. The Sale will begin exactly at 4 in the Afternoon, and continue daily till all are Sold, designing to sell 100 Lots every Evening. After this Sale, the fine Marble Figures and Busto's, curious inlaid Marble Tables, Brass and Leaden Figures, and very rich Vauses. N. B. For this Part of the Collection there will be Catalogues printed, and a low Price set to every thing, that the Widow may not run into great Returns in things of this Consequence. The Pictures, Drawings and Prints will also be Sold.

This is to give Notice, That Brooke and Hellier have not all the New-Port Wines this Year, nor above one half, the Vintners having bought 130 Pipes of Mr. Thomas Barlow and others, and which are all natural, and shall remain Genuine, on which all Gentlemen and others may depend. Now, Altho' Brooke and Hellier have asserted in several Papers, that they had 140 Pipes of New-Oporto Wines coming from Bristol, it now appears, since their landing, that they have only 133 Pipes 1 Hhd. of the said Wines, which shews plainly how little what they say is to be credited.

Brooke and Hellier having effectually discovered and prevented the Abuses in the Portugal Wine Trade, by retailing the Wines of their own Importation, and being desirous to do the same in the Florence Wine-Trade; in which, the corrupt Practices affect the Wines before Importation as well as afterwards, hereby give Notice, That they have settled a Correspondence with one of the principal Proprietors of the best Chianti Vineyards, in order to be constantly supplied with true Florence Wine of the best Quality, as a Specimen whereof, they have just landed a Cargo of the said Wines, without any of the usual Mixtures so commonly practised at Leghorne; and which causes much more Wine to come hither under the Name of Florence, than is the natural Product of the Place. The above said Wine is sold at all their Taverns and Cellars, at 2 s. 6 d. per Quart, 9 s. per single Gallon, and after the Rate of 8 s. per Gallon for no less Quantity than 30 Gallons.

Note, Their New-Ports, just landed, being the only New Ports in Merchants Hands, and above one Half of all that is in London, will begin to be sold, at the old Prices, the 12th Instant, at all their Taverns and Cellars, but their natural Rota Tent is sold only under St. James's Market-house at 3 s. 6 d. per Quart, without any Abatement for a larger Quantity.

In Bond's Court, the second Door on the Left-hand in Walbrooke near Stocks-Market, is kept a profitable Sale, after the Method for Sale of Numbers and Letters, three Books are opened for the Advantage of all Purchasers, who will receive Cent per Cent for the Money they advance, as will appear by the Proposals to be had Gratis at the Place of Sale. Attendance is given from 9 to 12, and from 2 till 6. Note, The Office removed from the Rainbow Coffee-house in Cornhill.

A six Years old strong Bay Gelding, to be sold a Penny worth, at the Angel in Witch-street behind St. Clemen's Church.

A small Distance from Mr. Lamb's House at East-Acton, is to be Lett, a good House of 4 Room of a Floor, with Coach house, Stables, Garden, and Orchard, with several other Conveniences, all in very good Repair. Inquire at Mr. Lamb's as above, or at his House in Lombard-street.

In a few Days will be published,

The Works of DIONYSIUS LONGINUS. Translated from the Greek, by Mr. Welsted. As Epicurus's Morals: Translated from the Greek, by John Digby, Esq; and Socrates his Advice to Demonicus: Done out of Greek by the same Hand. Price 3 s. 6 d. A new Edition of the compleat Works of Mr. Thomas Brown, both serious and comical, in 4 Vols 8o or the 4th and last Vol. single. The Works of Petronius Arbiter, in English, with Cuts. The Favorite, or, the Memoirs of Earl of Leicester, prime Minister and General of Queen Elizabeth. The Memoirs of the Court of Scotland: By the Author of the Ladies Travels, and the Virgin unmask'd; or, Female Dialogues on Love and Marriage. Printed for S. Briscoe; and sold by J. Morphew near Stationer's-Hall, J. Graves near White's Chocolate house St. James's street, and Owen Lloyd near the Church in the Temple.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*: where Advertisements are taken in; as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.